
AGENDA FOR THE 21ST WORKING PARTY ON BILLFISH

Updated: 27 July 2023

Date: 6–9 September 2023

Location: Hotel le Récif, La Salins-les-Bains, Reunion, France

Time: 09:00 – 17:00 daily (Seychelles time)

Chair: Dr Denham Parker (South Africa); **Vice-Chair:** Dr Jie Cao (China)

1. **OPENING OF THE MEETING** (Chairperson)
2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION** (Chairperson)
3. **THE IOTC PROCESS: OUTCOMES, UPDATES AND PROGRESS**
 - 3.1. Outcomes of the 25th Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)
 - 3.2. Outcomes of the 27th Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
 - 3.3. Review of Conservation and Management Measures relevant to billfish (IOTC Secretariat)
 - 3.4. Progress on the recommendations of WPB20 (IOTC Secretariat)
4. **NEW INFORMATION ON FISHERIES AND ASSOCIATED ENVIRONMENTAL DATA FOR BILLFISH**
 - 4.1. Review of the statistical data available for billfish at the Secretariat (IOTC Secretariat)
 - 4.2. New information on sport fisheries (all)
5. **SWORDFISH**
 - 5.1. Review new information on swordfish biology, stock structure, fisheries and associated environmental data (all)
 - 5.2. Review of new information on the status of swordfish (all)
 - Nominal and standardised CPUE indices
 - Stock assessments
 - Selection of Stock Status indicators
 - 5.3. Development of management advice for swordfish and update of species Executive Summaries for the consideration of the Scientific Committee, including discussion on current catch limits as per standing IOTC Resolutions (all)
6. **PROGRESS ON THE SWORDFISH MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION**
7. **OTHER BILLFISHES (new information for informing future assessments)**
 - 7.1. Review of new information on other billfishes biology, stock structure, fisheries and associated environmental data (all)
 - 7.2. Resolution 18/05 Catch Limits
8. **WPB PROGRAM OF WORK**
 - 8.1. Revision of the WPB Program of Work (2024–2028) (Chairperson and IOTC Secretariat)
 - 8.2. Development of priorities for an Invited Expert at the next WPB meeting (Chairperson)
9. **OTHER BUSINESS**
 - 9.1. Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the WPB for the next biennium (Secretariat)
 - 9.2. Date and place of the 22nd and 23rd Sessions of the Working Party on Billfish (Chairperson and IOTC Secretariat)
 - 9.3. Review of the draft, and adoption of the Report of the 21st Session of the Working Party on Billfish (Chairperson)